

It's My Life!

I. It's My Life!

This is a popular statement, especially from our youth. Many people are under the impression that our lives are just for us. In addition, there are those who believe that freedom gives us the right to do as we wish, regardless of the consequences. That is the key issue, isn't it? Consequences! Did God create us as islands unto ourselves?

Certainly Not!

One of the first things we learn in the scriptures is that our decisions have consequences, sometimes dire. This is one of the first natural laws of God; we have been created for a social existence:

- **To Work.**

Genesis 1:27-28 *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

In many respects the book of Genesis is one of the most important teaching books in the Bible. It opens with the sublime words, "**In the beginning**" and back of that one cannot go. Its title, **Genesis**, is from these opening words; and in it is set forth the origin of the universe, the creation of man, the beginning of the home, the introduction of sin and the first intimation of redemption.

Genesis 1:26

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

According to this inspired account, man was created; he did not evolve. He was created "**in the image of God;**" he did not begin in the slime and ooze of some primeval swamp or mud hole. He was created possessing intellect, affection, and will.

In addition to his complete nature at creation, he was also given purpose, "**Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

Man should populate the earth, subdue it, rule over and have dominion over it. Everything put in the world was for his use and benefit.

Man now placed in the Garden of Eden; was given the work of dressing and keeping the Garden of God. Work itself is not a curse; it was and is a blessing. God recognized man's need for something to do, therefore, God gave him responsibility and duty of keeping and caring for that which was entrusted to him (**Genesis 2:15**).

Paul Minear once wrote that the Bible is, ***“an album of casual photographs of laborers... A book by workers, about workers, for workers --- that is the Bible.”*****

(Minear, 33)**

Human work is shown to have worth and dignity as a service to God and as something that gives purpose to human life. In addition, work is a creation ordinance, a God – appointed necessity for human life.

Psalm 104:23

“Man goes out to his work And to his labor until the evening.”

Work is as much a part of the natural order as the rising and setting of the sun. It is not my life; I must fulfill my purpose and work. In the Bible no stigma is attached to being a worker; on the contrary, it is an expected part of life. For people work is a paradox. For some it is enjoyable, creative, and establishes their character; for others it is toilsome and a curse. In either case, it is the arena within which a man serves God and each other.

- **To Build Homes.**

Created in the image of God man by his nature is a social being, desiring the companionship of one suitable to himself.

Genesis 2:18

“And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Woman was created as neither his slave nor his property, but his counterpart. Without her he is incomplete, and in her he finds his most social completeness. In addition, all that man has been given to do by God (be fruitful and multiply, etc...), cannot be completed apart from this male female joint participation.

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

This marks the divine origin of the home, the institution upon which the greatness or baseness of every nation is derived.

In the divine plan, there was one man and one woman created as his companion and counterpart. This was always God's intent while both were alive. It was God who joined them, thus making them one in their purpose, ideals, aim, and work.

Throughout the Bible, God's displeasure is manifested against unchaste behavior, against divorce, and against the sins that lead to divorce. The lack of respect for the divine origin of marriage and the origin of the home has led to broken homes, untold sorrow, suffering, and demoralization throughout the history of man.

Ephesians 6:1-4

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

The design of God's home, places the responsibility of rearing children squarely on the shoulders of the father and mother. It was in the home that children were trained and implanted with their own moral compass. This training and admonition was conducted under strict guidelines of order, love, and discipline. It has been said that any man can father a child, but only a real man is a child's father.

It is not my life; I must do my part in the building and protecting of my home.

- **To Serve.**

One of the most vital points in understanding our social existence is to learn that we have been created to serve. This is the exact opposite of the, "it's my life;" concept among modern men.

We Must Learn to Serve Life!

Life is a precious gift of God, and all life is precious. However, of man it was said:

Genesis 1:26-28

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

The life of man was in, "**His own image**", thus set apart from the rest of creation. He then would bless them (thus making them a thing of value), and would give them dominion over all other life and with similar values for it. It was with this very value of life as a gift of God, that He would establish a system of capital punishment, note:

Genesis 9:6-7

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. ⁷And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

To place such a price on the life of man, is to explain the true value thereof. In addition, the value of life can be seen in the Son of God; His work in the creation of life, and His role in our preservation from eternal separation (spiritual death). All things were made by God through Christ Jesus, in Him was life, and the life was the light of men (**John 1:3-4**). Christ gave His life that we might live (spiritually); however, this stands as a pattern as to the true value of life. The man or woman who understands this, places the same value on life from its conception to its end. When this value on life exists; there is not abortion on demand, our elderly are no longer a burden on society, and those who are different from us are not exterminated!

We Must Learn to Serve Men!

Romans 12:10-18

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Galatians 6:9-10

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” See also: **Romans 13:9**.

The man or woman that understands the importance of serving each other will be a better:

- **Husband.** Loving her as he loves himself.
- **Wife.** Reverencing him.
- **Citizen** Not a drain on society, but productive, and active.
- **Neighbor.** Caring, kind, and helpful. To value their property as your own.
- **Employee.** Hard working, productive, and dependable.
- **Friend.** Placing the needs of others above your own.

In addition, the person or persons understanding that we must serve others will in fact place a higher priority on their impact on others. That is, they will **not** seek to fulfill their personal lusts (money, power, and lusts of the flesh); at the expense of others. They will be concerned about leading others into a life of individualism and sin by the choices they make.

The very idea of serving life and serving others, is the foundation of a lawful society. A lawful society protects the environment that allows individuals to

practice true service to one another, and it's laws are designed to punish citizens who practice disorder and make life threatening decisions. Many of the social disorders that exist today, have been born of the individuals interests forced upon the majority. When an individual's lusts dominate a person to do what he wills regardless of the consequences to society; and society enables this individual, true freedom no longer exists.

We Must Learn To Serve God.

As God is the architect of man, the home, and healthy societal behavior; a purpose driven life can only be achieved in serving Him.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

As with every creation of God, a precise pattern of operation exists (laws of gravity, motion, etc...). This is ever more the case for the one thing that God created everything else for, Man!

Everyone is seeking that one thing, the answer for their existence! The wise writer of Ecclesiastes reveals the words of the Creator in answer to that very question. In knowing this single great truth, we not only learn our purpose, but our precise pattern of operation. This precise pattern governs our individual, social, and spiritual existence. If it is followed in its entirety as given by God, we will no longer stand idly by and allow evil to rule over good.

It is not our life, but a gift of God! As a gift of God, our lives have specific purposes and expectations. Our nation was founded on these expectations! Our ignorance has allowed them to be overruled and placed out of reach of the majority. Just as it was given to all who profess to be Christians, to go into the world and preach the Gospel of Christ (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**); it was also given to us to abhor evil (**Romans 12:9**), and to practice good (**Ephesians 2:10**). It is time that we are subject to the original ordinances of our nation and act on behalf of the good they were founded on! Use your freedoms to promote good and discontinue the ignorance of **Freedumbs** we have been practicing!